

I am saddened by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election as it is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I am also troubled that while we say we are fighting for democracy and freedom elsewhere in the world, we seem to be losing sight of it in our own country. This country needs proof that our system still works, not more influence by a media giant who would like to control the voters to suit their own needs.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.